

How, then, can you expect any first year to be conceited enough to be modest, when you, their seniors, so modestly are contented with conceit?

Does not hazing operate throughout the whole course in producing coldness and mistrust; are graduate dinners and such things mules, that you expect them to kick backwards while you thus act forward? Why labour after sociability towards the close, if you are determined to make it impossible at the beginning? Or do you really think that this initial stroke tends to knit the years together? Do you really imagine that you are encouraging sociability and goodfellowship by striking your guests, and violating the laws of hospitality as regards those who, in a measure, are strangers and alone in a house that is your home?

Do you never feel uneasy, sirs; are you never disturbed or moved by regret; when you reflect how, strong in the security of your numbers, you have used your ridicule or your force in cowardice against another who is powerless and alone? Sirs, I should have thought your own manliness would have forbidden it; that your courage and honour would have kept you from the act.

And lastly, you who haze, not for the good it does, for in this at least you are frank, but because you claim that it does nothing at all, and in the amusement of a night is gone; do you really think that there are no hearts in which the bitterness of the wrong still exists; no lives that bear secret testimony to its efficacy? Are you sure that all have forgotten? Do none remember? Truly you read well the hearts of your fellow students.

Sirs, I appeal to you all; will you not in wisdom give up this practice that is dangerous to yourselves; have you not generosity enough to relinquish a pleasure that is at another's cost?

H. C. BOULTBEE.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Since the beginning of the discussion as to the merits and demerits of hazing, it seems to me that those who have made their opinions public have almost lost sight of one fact which has an immediate bearing upon the subject, and also on the well-being of our largest representative Society. No one will deny that if ever an undergraduate has a warm interest in his university and in the societies clustered round it, that time is just when he enters college, and, finding himself in a new world, looks around for new associations and friends to replace those he has lost.

The expression "A freshman will join anything," has almost become proverbial, and just when the older undergraduates should give a cordial reception to this annual accession of enthusiasm, it has hitherto been the custom to step forward and repress it. If a man does not join the Literary Society in his first year, he is less likely to do so afterwards, when work accumulates on his hands, and he has made city acquaintances at whose homes he is welcome to spend his leisure evenings.

Again, many enter in the second year and find that they have not yet escaped all danger of initiation, and, hence, the same lack of interest, all of which comes from the fact that ever since he has contemplated a university course, a certain dim tradition has been floating in his mind that, during the first year of attendance, he will not be expected to manifest any interest in any Society, or else there will follow the inevitable court of the mufti. I think those who have attended the meetings of the Society will agree with me in saying that, with the exception of one unusually large meeting, there was not, during last term, an average attendance of six Freshmen.

Is this as it should be? It has been the custom in the past for political parties to throw all the blame for lack of interest on the shoulders of the General Committee, but is it not rather due to a mistaken idea of superiority and dignity in the upper years, who mete out to the supposed transgressor of their unwritten law a justice perhaps in accordance with college tradition, perhaps with the most laudable intentions, but certainly with a harsh and heavy hand.

Granted that students occasionally come to our college with mistaken ideas as to their future usefulness in its proceedings, would not a word from the President in the Literary Society, for example, administered in a keen but kindly manner, be more beneficial to such a manner, than the physical and oratorical remonstrances of a midnight tribunal, which can hardly be said to have the patronage or protection of any constitutional authority?

In conclusion, I have only to urge that if the majority of the undergraduates favour the suppression of this practice, should we not, then, not only cease to countenance, but even discontinue it, and, furthermore, since the College authorities have used words in connection with it which have no uncertain sound, would it not redound more to our credit could we say that we discontinued it of our own accord, rather than that it was suppressed under the pressure of threatened rustication or by judicial authority?

J. N. DALES.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—A series of letters on the subject of hazing has appeared in the columns of THE VARSITY, and different shades of opinion have been expressed. Kindly allow me a small space to set forth a few thoughts on the subject.

It might be well first to state how the question seems to be viewed by different sections of the student body.

There is one class, to all appearance organized, that systematically, and on principle, opposes itself to anything that has in it, even the appearance of evil. All honour to this class, but in its enthusiasm it sometimes "o'erleaps itself," and tries to sweep away institutions, when their evil might be swept away and they preserved for the good that is in them. This class takes a decided stand against hazing, but this act, in itself, does not carry with it a great deal of conviction, as it is "what I knew would happen."

Another class is strongly attached to the old college customs, sees, in college-life, more than mere study, and thinks that "some people are altogether too goody-goody." It seems at times to oppose itself—on principle—to the first class mentioned, and who will say that it is, in all cases, wrong? As a matter of course it is strongly in favour of hazing.

Between these two classes lies the bulk of the student body, and I have good reasons for thinking that this class has given the matter a careful consideration, looking not on one side alone; and I have equally good reasons for thinking that it has come to a firm, though not loudly asserted, judgment. That judgment is that hazing must become a thing of the past.

A very few words will now suffice for the expression of my own views on the subject. While not strongly opposed to the principle that underlies hazing, I think the evil that *does* and *must* attend the thing, so greatly outweighs the good it would be well to abolish the practice. The number of cheeky men is so small, that, were hazing a good thing on the whole, there might be slight call for it. The evils that attend the practice are many. In the first place one might refer to the selection of victims. Who will deny that at almost every hazing, men innocent and inoffensive have been forced to go through the ordeal? Look also at some of the charges under the head of "cheek"—"resistance to the hustling in the hall" for example. What in the world constitutes this "cheek?" Many other of the charges are too trivial to be mentioned. Again, the hazing ceremony does more than rebuke "cheek;" it degrades one's manhood, and no man should, *under any circumstances*, be forced to submit to the galling insults, and the humiliating indignities that are commonly imposed upon the subjects of the hazing. I do not doubt that serious and permanent injury has been done to sensitive natures by such insults and indignities. When one considers the small amount of good done, even in an "ideal hazing," and then the evils referred to, the step to a decision is easy and short. I sincerely hope that a decision will soon be reached by the student body, that hazing will soon "be relegated to the limbo of lies," and that fear and trembling, in the case of the men of the First Year, will give way to a feeling of good will towards the upper years.

A. T. DELURY.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Now that the time for the Conversazione is drawing near I wish to call the attention of the committee to one or two points which should not be overlooked by them in their deliberations. 1. Let them be more careful about the selling of tickets and let them limit the number considerably. The Conversazione can be mixed an affair now-a-days, and anyone who will pay for tickets can go. This is not as it should be and some check should be put on the system which permits it. 2. Let the Glee Club be given a larger share of the programme; and finally, let the committee see that arrangements are completed whereby there shall be a dance in Convocation Hall after the concert.

POLKA DOT.

The college building of Stanford University, California, is of peculiar shape, being one story in height, 600 feet long and 200 feet wide. Its form is that of a hollow square, with a cloister 1,700 feet long.

The raising of the standard of scholarship at Rutgers has not decreased the attendance as was feared. Students are not marked, but passed *cum laude*, or simply passed. Out of 70 candidates 35 were admitted, 29 classical and 26 scientific.